year 1993-94. Besides, recovery action for stock shortage was taken in cases involving 450 employees.

Import export units hit by strike of DGFT Officials

*17. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the import-export units in the Capital have been grossly affected due to strike by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) officials;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the strike;

(c) whether Government propose to probe the matter and book the culprits; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There was no strike in the Head Quarters office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, However, in the Regional Offices of the Organisation,, there was a pen down strike due to the arrest of one official at Pondicherry under COFEPOSA. All urgent requirements of the Import-Export Units were attended to at Headquarters office and by the Officers in Regional Offices. Disciplinary action has been initiated against the culprits.

Industrial Mission to China

*18. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an 11-member industrial mission of the Confederation of Indian Industries, visited China in the last week of June, 1994 and if so, whether it has submitted its report to Government;

(b) what was its assessment about the potential for Indo-Chinese Co-operation in Industrial and trade deveolpment; and

(c) whether any meeting of the Joint Commission of India and China was also held recently to assess such cooperation potential and areas of cooperation and if so; what decisions were taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, an 11-member mission from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited China in June 1994. Report of the mission is awaited.

(c) During the meeting of the India-China Joint Group of Economic Cooperation, Trade Science and Technology held in New Delhi from June 13 to 15, 1994, the following areas of cooperation were identified:

(i) to conduct joint market surveys and undertake other trade promotion measures to increase bilateral trade.

(ii) to explore possibilities of forming joint ventures and jointly contracting projects in third countries.

(iii) to explore possibility of bilaterial cooperation in the fields of iron and steel, railway, telecommunications aviation water conservancy, coal and iron ore mining, metallurgy, auto components, computer software, pharmaceuticals, fisheries and agro products.

(iv) to participate in tenders for projects to be financed by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank or other International financial organisations in either of the two countries.

(v) the items of export and import interest for either country were identified and included in the trade protocol for 1994-95.

Hike in the Price of Coal

*19. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of coal has been hiked by 5·6 per cent recently;

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Govt. have revised the prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited w.e.f. 17.6. 1994. The average price of coal of Coal India Limited has been enhanced from Rs. 381.00 per tonne to Rs. 401 per tonne (5.25) per cent.) The average price of coal of Singareni Collieries Company Limited has also been enhanced from Rs. 482 per tonne to Rs. 503 per tonne (4.36 per cent).

The increase in Coal Prices became necessary since cost indices for various inputs had moved up and required neutralisation.

Employment Target

*20. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of 10 million employment fell short by a million during the last year because of poor performance by five major States; if so, the names of these States; and

(b) the measures Government have taken to make these States meet the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages generation of additional employment opportunities of about 8.5 million per year, on an average, during the Plan period. No annual or State-wise targets have been set in this regard. It is estimated that 6.4 million and 5.6 million additional employment opportunities are likely to have been generated during 1992-93 and 1993-94, respctively.

Discrimination in Placement of Supply Orders in Super Bazar

1. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether equally placed suppliers of washing soaps, detergents etc are discriminated againt the placement of supply orders by the Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the reasons for such discrimination and the steps taken to check the same and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard and what is the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that there has been no case of discrimination. However, in case of any grievance/complaint pointed out by a supplier, appropriate action is taken.